

laws have been applied to this body. Now Congress is required to play by the same rules as everyone else.

But there is still at least one special exception the Congressional Accountability Act did not eliminate: Congress gets paid during Federal shutdowns while other Federal employees do not.

We can clear up this matter by passing H.R. 2658, a bill I introduced which would suspend Member's salaries during Federal shutdowns and furloughs. It is only fair that Congress be treated like every other Federal employee. If we are serious about playing by the same rules that govern everyone else, we need to pass this now.

On January 3, 1996, Carol Ann Rinzler and Perry Luntz wrote an excellent and eloquent article for the New York Times which accurately describes this problem. I have enclosed it below so all of my colleagues can better understand the magnitude of this issue:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 3, 1996]

OUR 2 CENTS' WORTH

(By Carol Ann Rinzler and Perry Luntz)

Almost exactly a year ago, Congress passed the Congressional Accountability Act, a much ballyhooed measure that requires the House and Senate to abide by the workplace and civil rights laws they enact for the rest of us. Alas, like so many things in life, this long-overdue legislation turns out to be less than meets the eye.

In an effort to minimize the effects of the Government shutdown on their constituents, Republicans in the House proposed last week that furloughed Federal employees go back to work without being paid, surely a new idea in free-market, conservative economics.

Afterward, someone asked Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, the House majority whip, whether he would consider giving up his own salary during the crisis. No way, said Mr. DeLay, explaining that, like every other member of Congress, he isn't a Federal employee—he is a "constitutional officer."

Well, we've reread our copy of the Constitution, and frankly the distinction seems a bit arcane to us.

True, members of Congress are specifically mentioned in the Constitution, Article I, Section 6 says that "Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law and paid out of the Treasury of the United States." Cabinet members and Federal judges also get a mention, later on, but other workers—curators at the Smithsonian, say—do not.

But every Federal paycheck originates in an appropriation requiring money from the Treasury, whose funds come, in large part, from income taxes. That should give everyone of us the inalienable right to put in our 2 cents. Or to take it out.

Members of the House and Senate earn a base salary of \$133,600 a year (those in leadership positions get more.) And don't forget the generous benefit package: life insurance, health insurance, per diem travel and a nifty pension. Mr. DeLay's base salary alone costs each of America's more than 115 million individual taxpayers 1.2 cents a year.

As conscientious citizens, we have always paid our taxes, regardless of our political gripes. Even though one of us was tear-gassed in 1971 by an overzealous guard at the Nixon White House, protecting it from throngs of balding, middle-aged Vietnam War protesters and their children, the Internal Revenue Service got paid the following year anyway.

This time, however, we plan to draw a line in the sand. Having voted to obey its own

laws, members of Congress should be man (or woman) enough to live up to that requirement. Before Tom DeLay votes for trimming Medicare, he should whittle down his own Government-financed health insurance. If he expects Federal workers to show up for free, so should he.

Until then, he can forget our helping to pay his salary. Come April 15, our joint tax return will be 2 cents short. That ought to send a message: keeping Congress in line is a hard job, but somebody has to do it.

#### COMMENDATION FOR THE HONORABLE EDWARD J. BLAKE

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 24, 1996*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Edward J. Blake, who is retiring from the Court of Common Pleas on January 31, 1996.

Judge Blake was born in Philadelphia on May 18, 1926, to Philip and Agnes Blake, and he was graduated from Saint Joseph's Preparatory High School in June 1944. From August 1944, to January 1946, he attended the Pennsylvania Maritime Academy, and was thereafter commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In September 1946, Judge Blake entered the prestigious Saint Joseph's College and earned a bachelor of science degree upon his graduation in May 1950.

Following his graduation, Judge Blake volunteered for active military service during the Korean war. As a damage control officer on the U.S.S. *Sutherland*, he participated in the Inchon invasion in September 1950. Judge Blake was honorably discharged from active duty in 1951, but he remained a member of the Reserve fleet and eventually attained the high rank of lieutenant commander before his discharge from the reserves in 1972.

Judge Blake's legal career was just as distinguished as his military achievements. Judge Blake attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he was to become class president. After graduating with honors, Judge Blake was appointed chief law clerk to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, a position he held until 1962. From 1962 until 1964, he served as chief deputy court administrator of the court, and court administrator from 1964 until 1974.

In 1966, during his tenure as court administrator, the Court of Common Pleas entered the electronic age with the implementation of a computer system. As a direct consequence of his efforts, the court's ability to manage its caseload substantially improved, and the results were published in *Computer Streamlines Caseload* at Philadelphia Common Pleas Court, which Judge Blake coauthored.

Gov. Milton J. Schapp appointed Judge Blake to the bench of the Common Pleas in 1971, and he was elected in full term on November 6, 1973. In 1983 and 1993, Judge Blake was retained by the voters of Pennsylvania for succeeding terms in office.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed Judge Blake as administrative judge of the trial division of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County on April 11, 1986, and during his tenure, the disposition of cases im-

proved even though the filing rate for civil cases increased dramatically.

On December 18, 1990, Judge Blake was elected as president judge. During his term of office as president judge, the criminal section of the trial division of the Court of Common Pleas was finally relocated to the newly completed Criminal Justice Center. This was a long-term project which was conceived, and nurtured due primarily to the efforts of Judge Blake.

Judge Blake's accomplishments, as a dedicated officer in the Army and a distinguished judge in the courtroom, has earned him respect and praise from his peers. I join his family and friends in wishing him an enjoyable retirement.

#### HONORING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLARD MUNGER

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 24, 1996*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Minnesota State Representative, Willard Munger, who is 85 years young and marking his 40th year as a member of the Minnesota Legislature. Willard is a Minnesota original—a Minnesota natural resource—whose work honors his family, the State of Minnesota, and our Nation.

Willard Munger represents the best of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's tradition of service to the State of Minnesota. He is currently tied with former Representative Day as the longest-serving member of the House and he has no intention of retiring now. The Munger vision and tenacity have shaped our State and generations of lawmakers. I'm proud of the 6 years I served in the Minnesota House of Representatives with Willard Munger. Willard Munger, as a sage and chairman, introduced me to the task and role of environmental lawmaker. What a teacher and what a friend Willard Munger was to me and past, present, and future generations of lawmakers.

Willard Munger reminds us again and again of our stewardship responsibilities. He established a pragmatic proactive progressive public service tradition and standard of public interest decisions that are sustained by sound science—both political and natural science. Willard first was the conscience speaking out courageously against powerful interests and finally a fiery new chairman. Today his advocacy remains constant. He is not complacent, but is rightfully viewed as mainstream but the careful work on law and policy that he has written and helped enact and will continue to advance.

Willard was one of the first people to raise questions about the use of pesticides, PCBs, and mercury. He began addressing issues like recycling, energy conservation, nuclear power, wetlands, soil erosion, environmentally safe mining practices, and hazardous waste long before these policy matters became politically popular.

Willard Munger's environmental vision has helped make Minnesota a natural leader in the areas of natural resource conservation and protection. Among his achievements are the enactment of the Minnesota Environmental